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Message Text

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66
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIE-00

SSO-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SY-10 USSS-00 SCA-01

OPR-02 M-03 A-01 NEA-10 RSR-01 /100 W
---------- 000673
O 080330 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5780

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3150

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN, PINS, APER, MX
SUBJECT: GUADALAJARA KIDNAP: SITREP: SUMMARY OF 7 MAY 1745 HOURS TO 2000 HOURS LOCAL TIME

1745 CONGEN DOBYNS CALLED TO REPORT THAT ALL RUMORS OF RELEASE HAD CHECKED OUT AS NEGATIVE.

1800 AMBASSADOR MEYER INITIATED THE HOURLY CALL WITH OP CENTER. NOTHING TO REPORT. FOUR POSSIBILITIES WERE DISCUSSED WITH TASK FORCE: 1) SUCCESSFUL RELEASE; 2) A LONG WAIT - UP TO 48 HOURS MORE; 3) FURTHER DEMANDS - THOSE MOST LIKELY BEING A REQUEST FOR SAFE HAVEN. THIS NOT TO BE CONCEDED WITHOUT INSURED RELEASE OF CG LEONHARDY; 4) MURDER OF CG LEONHARDY - UNLIKELY, BUT MUST BE ALLOWED FOR. IT WAS AGREED THAT FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT AFTER RELEASE EFFECTED MUST BE VERY CAREFULLY WORDED. WASHINGTON-PROPOSED TEXT IS BEING SENT BY TELEGRAM, MR. LEONHARDY SHOULD NOT BE DIRECTELY EXPOSED TO PRESS, EXCEPT IN BRIEF PICTURE SESSION. QUESTIONS SHOULD NOT BE ENTERTAINED IN MEXICO, ALTHOUGH IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT SOME RESPONSE MUST BE MADE TO PLACATE THE PRESS. BASIC, UNAVOIDABLE QUESTIONS INCLUDED " DID U. S. PAY RANSOM?" ANSWER: " NO". " WAS THERE NEGOTIATION BY U. S. G. OR MRS. LEONHARDY?" ANSWER: " NO COMMENT", OR REFER TO GOM, OR " YES, THE KIDNAPPERS CALLED HER. SHE THEN TRANMITTED THE MESSAGE TO
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GOM". SUBJECT OF PRESENCE OF MEXICAN SPOKEMAN AT SUCH SESSION DISCUSSED; IT WAS DECIDED THIS WAS INADVISABLE.

1850 CHARGE PASSED ABOVE TO MR. MATTHEWS IN GUADALJARA. MR MATTHEWS BROACHED IDEA OF POSSIBLE MEDIA APPEAL BY MRS. LEONHARDY FOR RELEASE OF HER HUSBAND, SHOULD UNDULY LONG DELAY ENSUE.

1900 IN CONFERENCE CALL WITH TASK FORCE, IDEA OF PUBLIC APPPEAL BY MRS. LEONHARDY DISCUSSED. MR. KUBISCH STATED THAT WHETHER AND WHEN SUCH AN APPEAL IS MADE IS UP TO EMBASSY. HOWEVER, EVERYONE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT SUCH APPEAL WOULD PUT KIDNAPPERS PER SE UNDER VERY LITTLE DIRECT PRESSURE; RATHER, EFFECT WOULD BE IN PRESERVING THEIR GOOD PUBLIC IMAGE, INSOFAR AS SUCH EXISTS. FURTHERMORE, ALL CONCERNED SHOULD BE CONSCIOUS OF MRS. LEONHARDY' S RIGHT TO TAKE ANY STEPS SHE DEEMS USEFUL IN PURSUING RELEASE OF HER HUSBAND. FOLLOWING THIS DISCUSSION, TEXT OF SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE TAPED.

1940 CHARGE SPOKE WITH INTERIOR MINISTER MOYA PALENCIA AND, INTER ALIA, RAISED TOPIC OF POSSIBLE APPEARANCE ON TELEVISION BY MRS. LEONHARDY. MOYA IMMEDIATELY SAID THAT GOM WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION, BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST IF SUCH A DECISION WERE MADE. IN ENSUING CONVERSATION, HE DID STATE THAT HE FELT SUCH AN APPEARANCE SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL TOMORROW. THIS WOULD
GIVE ADEQUATE TIME FOR RELEASE AND WOULD OBVIATE ANY APPEARANCE THAT KIDNAPPERS EFFECTED RELEASE IN DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO SUCH PUBLIC APPEAL.

1940 AMBASSADOR FULTON FREEMENA CALLED FROM CARMEL, CALIFORNIA, TO URGE THAT ALL EFFORT BE MADE TO ENLIST CUBAN GOVERNMENT' S INDIRECT ASSISTANCE IN FORM OF PUBLIC STATEMENT CONDEMNING NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ORIGINAL AGREEMENT AND THREATENING TO TAKE APPROPRIATE REPRISALS AGAINST RELEASED PRISONERS. HE WAS ASSURED THAT IDEA OF GOM APPROACH TO CUBANS HAD BEEN CONSIDERED, PRESENTED TO GOM, AND WAS STILL BEING PURSUED. FREEMEN SUGGESTED THAT WASHINGTON SHOULD CONSIDER APPROACH THROUGH SWISS OR CANADIANS TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE.

1955 MR. MATTHEWS CALLED AND DISCUSSED POSSIBLE TEXT FOR USE BY MRS. LEONHARDY IN PUBLIC APPEARANCE. HE REPORTED THAT THIS IDEA HAS NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH HER. IT WAS DECIDED TO DEFER
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ACTION FOR THE TIME BEING.

2000 TASK FORCE CONFERENCE CALL WAS ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE REPORT.

2100 MEDIA REACT: UPI HAD ERRONEOUS REPORT TO EFFECT THAT CONSUL WAS SET FREE 8 KMS. FROM CITY. IT PUT THIS OUT TO ITS CLIENTS,

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ONE OF WHICH, ULTIMAS NOTICIAS, BANNERED IN 5- INCH HEADLINES
" THEY HAVE SET FREE CONSUL". UPI SOME BRIEF TIME LATER PUT A
KILL ON ITS STORY. THIS WAS NOT IN TIME TO SAVE THE ULTIMAS
NOTICIAS' ANNOUNCEMENT OR MANY OTHER RUMORS THAT WERE STARTED.
DEAN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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